



National Network
For Safe Communities
at **JOHN JAY COLLEGE**

Presentation for Minneapolis City Council

David Kennedy
October 22, 2020

Outline

- National violence spike
- Centered in existing, well-understood violence dynamics
- Groups and group dynamics
- COVID effect
- Legitimacy effect
- The path to community safety lies through police legitimacy
- Directions for action

National Violence Spike

Study of 27 U.S. cities found that homicide rates between June and August 2020 were up 53% over the same period in 2019.

- **New York City** – Shootings up 140% over Summer 2019
- **Philadelphia** – 275 people shot in August 2020

(most in a single month since 2007)

- **Louisville** – Homicides are nearly double 2019 numbers
- **St. Louis** – On track for highest homicide rate in 25 years



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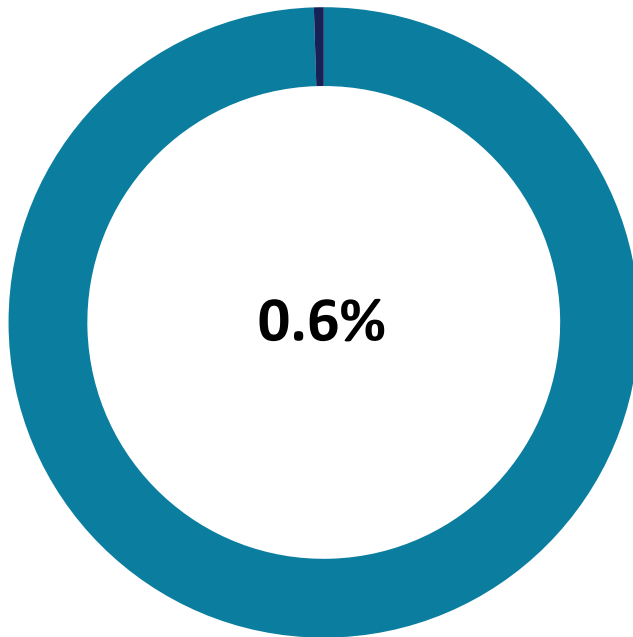
[NNSCommunities.org](https://nnscommunities.org)

Violence is Highly Concentrated

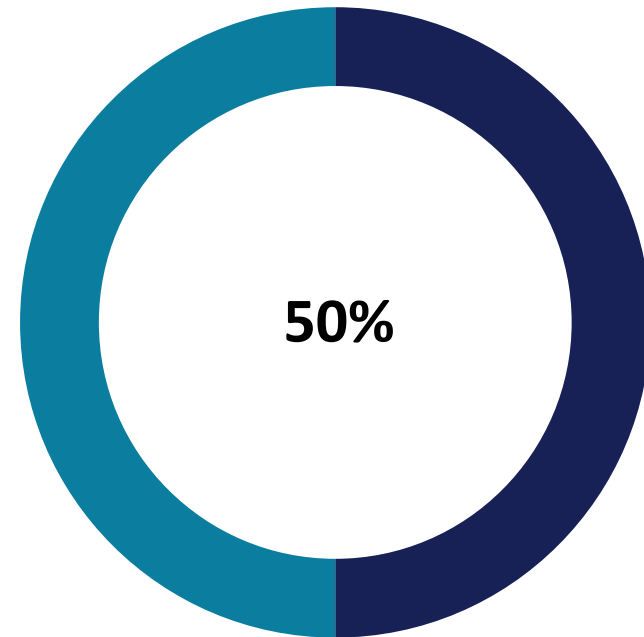
- Homicide and gun violence is enormously concentrated in small, intense groups
 - Both victimization and offending are concentrated
- Homicide rate for core group-involved population is more than 100x the national average
- **This does not appear to be changing during the national spikes.** Violence is not moving to new people and places.

Connection Between Violence & Groups

**Representation in
Population**



**Representation in
Homicides**



Groups Drive the Violence

- Group dynamics drive the action
 - Vendettas, “street code,” peer pressure, relationships
- Not usually much to do with making money
- Issues that don’t look like group dynamics often are
 - Robberies, carjackings
- VERY small numbers of “impact players” – 10-20% of group members

COVID Dynamics

The pandemic appears to have exacerbated these dynamics in some very specific ways.

Police Legitimacy

When legitimacy goes down, violence goes up

- Most vulnerable communities **withdraw from the police**
- Fewer people call 911 when they need help

Nationally, the police have taken a tremendous legitimacy hit.

There is a critical need for near-term actions and solutions

- People are being killed and hurt now. Long-term investments and reforms do not address this.
- Violence drives violence and needs immediate attention.

Approaches to doing policing in fundamentally different ways

- Older ideas of “community” and “problem-oriented” policing
- Focused deterrence
- LA’s “relationship-based” policing
 - Community Safety Partnership, Watts Gang Task Force
- Others like this: can change policing and police/community relationships quickly and directly

Approaches to doing policing in fundamentally different ways

- Focus on most serious public safety problems; move responsibility as much as possible to non-law enforcement capacities; use as little sanctioning and enforcement as possible.
- Acknowledge failure and harm, commit to repair, frank work around reconciliation.



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